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meaning the militant prohibitionists—would defeat them at the next election. It was amazing how these extremists were kow-towed to by both sides. Their day ended when Premier Jones got mad at them at one of these annual affairs, bawled them out for trying to dictate to the House in this manner, and sent them home with a flea in their ear. Our recollection is that they never came back again.

More recently, the present government had trouble with an Agriculture Federation delegation whose complaints with regard to the manner in which the AFD program was being run appears to have been justified at that time; but it could have been made to better purpose in some other way.

Then there was the Tourist Association, which came to grief in a presentation they made against the proposed Northumberland Strait causeway, and got slapped down by Mr. Stewart.

For the most part, of course, these public hearings have gone off amicably enough; but their value has always been questionable, and we do not believe the heavens would fall if they were discontinued permanently.

A Legal Hurdle

Reference was made in these columns yesterday to the fact that we may have another plebiscite on the water fluoridation issue in Charlottetown in the not too distant future. A convenient time for having such a vote would be at the next civic election in February. This was how Ottawa held its fluoridation plebiscite last Monday, as noted. But a point has come up in this connection, which is disturbing to those who are desirous of having the issue dealt with at that time.

This relates to the Act to amend the Charlottetown Waterworks Act, passed by the Legislature at the 1959 session in anticipation of the former plebiscite. The act authorizes the Commissioners of Sewers and Water Supply to fluoridate the water supply of the city to the extent and by the methods approved by the Canadian Medical Association. It then states (Section 2):

"The foregoing section of this amending Act shall not come into force until proclaimed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, and such proclamation shall depend on the result of a plebiscite by which a majority of the citizens of Charlottetown voting thereat shall signify their approval of such action; and the City Council of Charlottetown is hereby authorized to hold such plebiscite as soon as practicable hereafter but not later than the date of the next general civic election, and all persons then qualified to vote for Mayor and Commissioners of Sewers and Water Supply shall be eligible to vote thereat."

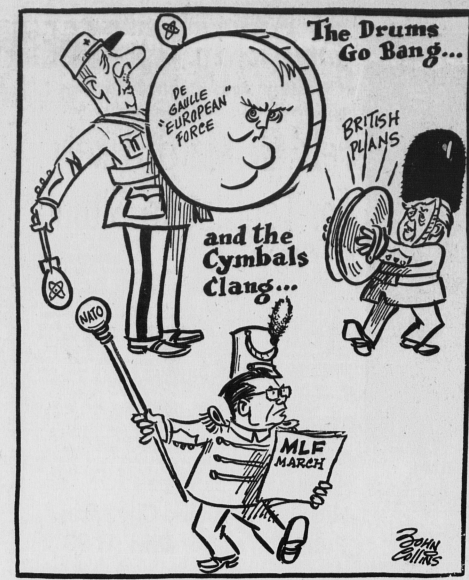
The tricky point here is that the plebiscite shall be held "not later than the date of the next general civic election"—that is, not later than the date of the civic election following March 25, 1959, when the Act was assented to. No provision for any subsequent plebiscite is made. It is argued that an amendment to the statute would be required before one could be held.

In that case, since the Legislature is unlikely to meet before the next general civic election, the prospect of having a vote on the issue at that time would seem to be dim. It could be held later in the year, of course, if legislative authority were given, but this would be at any other time than at a general election would almost certainly result in an inadequate expression of public opinion.

EDITORIAL NOTES

An all-Chinese bagpipe band in Hong Kong has refused to wear the King. They play Scottish tunes and they try to march like good Scots do. But no kit. "We Chinese are far too shy" explains a spokesman.

Another organization that used to be given the red carpet treatment by the Legislature every year was the Temperance Alliance. Members were professedly warm in their adherence to Prohibition at that time, and it was the practice for the Alliance delegation to lay down the law to them, telling them where they had sinned by omission or commission and warning them that if they didn't plug the loopholes in the act and cooperate more zealously in enforcing it, the "right-thinking people of the Province"—



and the Cymbals Clang... MCMNAMARA'S BAND

MOSCOW'S U.S. DELEGATION

—took exception to Professor Moser's attack. Their attitude seemed to be that any cultural interchange with the Russians was better than none because it helps in learning and in retuning rival attitudes. The band members argued that strong criticism of the delegation — particularly since it was the first sent to the U.S. by the new regime — was essential in order to bring pressure on the Kremlin to permit some of the best doctrinaire intellectuals and artists to travel abroad.

Cultural Exchange Bets With Difficulties

—Both full fighters and bull briers advertised this is the real Paris in the new age of barbarism. Rome, naturally, is worse because the Italian temperament, ripened by the southern sun, is even more Latin than the French and modern Roman is driving a car; in his imagination he is fighting a bull. The Eternal City has been turned into one vast bull ring and the pedestrian into the quarry of a blood sport.

The New Barbarians

Not since the Dark Ages, when the Goths, Huns and Vandals ravaged Europe, has that barbaric migration that swept across this still Europe been so rampant. The barbarians are back again after the lapse of centuries, this time on wheels. That don't blame us barbarians too much since Europe was too barbarous even if we had never arrived. Our blame the affluence of Europe and the internal combustion engine.

Operation 'Brain Gain'

Many among the loss of Canadian brains and talent to the U.S. and other countries, few have constructive suggestions for reversing the "brain drain." Dr. Murray Ross, president of York University, is one of the few in a speech to the Industrial Management Association, he outlined a cogent plan for corralling Canadian students in graduate studies in the U.S. and British universities to serve in Canada.

The Laughter-Makers

Harold Lloyd, Grace Fields, Laurel and Hardy, Fred and Grace Allen... and many more; where are their counterparts today? Happily, a few are still with us in their autumnal years, and have forgotten more about laughter-making than many would care to admit.

PUBLIC FORUM

It was good to see Grace Fields back in Canada again, playing, as always, to capacity audiences. With no more stage props than a crepe handkerchief, she enchanted her audience, evoking a sense of solemnity and back again at her will. This is the triumph of her personality and hard training. We need not be afraid that it is so durable that it will last for years.

WHITE CROSS APPEAL

Sir:—Again I am happy to commend to the citizens of the Province the White Cross Appeal of the Canadian Mental Health Association's White Cross Christmas Appeal. Like similar appeals conducted for the benefit of the patients at Riverside Hospital. The large majority of our patients will have to spend the Christmas Season at the hospital and, although we try to make it as happy a time as possible, in certain cases where there is loneliness and nostalgia for family and friends. The national executive of the Conservative Party has decided to delay its 1965 annual meeting until possibly October and to concentrate on party organization and publicity. Party officials said the action was taken because they believe there may be a spring election. But a Liberal commentator suggests, as another reason, the shortage of funds. A conference costs the party \$50,000 to \$60,000, and this would be a heavy drain on the slim resources being hunched for an election campaign.

Soviet Arms Gesture

The new Soviet leaders appear to be encouraging President Khrushchev to urge Western leaders to move towards the summit by paving the path with relaxing gestures, including planned reductions in Soviet military spending. The Soviet budgets are not open to Western inspection. It is possible that the Russians will actually cut armaments as they have announced \$900,000,000 next year.

But Johnson cannot dismiss the arms-cutting question announced by Premier Alexei N. Kosygin as an empty gesture. When Nikita Khrushchev toppled from power, many Western authorities concluded that those in the top ranks were pressing for a big arms build-up had finally succeeded in getting their way.

Kosygin seems to be following in the footsteps of Khrushchev. He noted that the United States is planning to increase its nuclear arsenal and concluded this is a positive step toward lessening of international tension.

Trimming of Soviet and American defence budgets are also being discussed. It is possible that the United States might lead to the summit. The Americans have followed the line that the Russians have followed in negotiations first in the diplomatic arena and then in the nuclear scale the heights.

U.S. SEKS GESTURES There also is the question of open Soviet encouragement of the Viet Cong in the Vietnamese battle and the Russian rebels in the Congo. The United States is also a deliberate act of self-destruction to obtain a liability insurance settlement? These schemes often subject innocent Americans to liability claims, especially when the pedestrian, bus, or subway train. The car that rams a fat man into a tree or a truck that runs over a child.

Legal Battle In Ontario

MOTORISTS will be watching with keen interest the legal battle that is bound to result from an Ontario Supreme Court decision that charges of careless driving under the Highway Traffic Act are not a criminal offence. This takes care of the in-between cases, allowing the police wider latitude and the offender a chance to escape severe punishment for a minor infraction.

If Justice Haines' ruling is upheld, all careless driving charges are invalidated. It is clear that either the Criminal Code or the Highway Traffic Act will have to be amended to provide for prosecution of motorists who may be careless but who are not grossly negligent.

Woolworths

FREE Coffee And Donuts Tonight Open 'til 9.30 p.m.

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